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OLC 72-0525

21 April 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Second White House Meeting on Senate Foreign Relations  
Committee Amendments to State/USIA Authorization Bill

1. This afternoon I attended a meeting in Mr. Clark MacGregor's office in the White House to discuss further the strategy involved in dealing with the draft of the "Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1972" which is expected to come up in the Senate next week. The meeting was chaired by Tom Korologos, of the White House staff, and was attended by Messrs. John Lehman, Wally Johnson, and Bud McFarland, of the White House staff, and Rady Johnson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Congressional Relations; Charles Ablard, General Counsel for USIA; Marshall Wright, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations; and myself.

2. Since a policy session on this legislation had been called for 4:30 this afternoon in the White House and some of the members of this meeting were obliged to attend that session, our meeting lasted only about a half hour. During that time Mr. Korologos merely discussed preliminary strategy on the legislation. As he put it, the provision of the bill which would cut off funds for U.S. forces in Indochina after 31 December 1972 (Section 701) was the first priority and everything else fell into variations of the next priority. He said there had been a meeting with Senator Stennis and several other senators and Senator Stennis will be carrying the ball in the fight against the fund cut off provision.

3. Mr. Korologos made it clear that Senator Stennis considered this to be "his show." He also said every effort should be made to join forces in defeating this provision and then the White House would support the various agency needs with respect to other aspects of the bill. He made it very specific that even if the Administration wins the battle on the funds cut off provision, if the other requirements in the bill are not met it is still "veto bait."

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4. He said this group should meet again next Tuesday at 4:00 to discuss final strategy. He added that it is not expected this bill will come up in the Committee until after the middle of next week. Mr. Korologos is to be the point of contact on any matters pertaining to this bill. If he is not available either Mr. Wally Johnson or Mr. Bud McFarland should be contacted.

5. Mr. Korologos said there was no point in delaying action on the bill in the Senate. In addition he said it is very likely that the Case/Church provision (Section 701) and the Byrd/Mansfield amendment to "end the war" would be taken up on the same day (Senator Byrd apparently has a commitment to Senator Mansfield to bring Mansfield's "end the war" amendment up in the Senate while Mansfield is in China with Senator Scott).

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